

CENTER FOR ACQUISITION AND BUSINESS EXCELLENCE

Reviews and Assessments

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Description

The **Center for Acquisition and Business Excellence (CABE)** provides business expertise to its customers in an effort to address the nation's environmental and energy challenges. CABE provides business and technical assistance in matters relating to project definition, management, and assessment, and provides acquisition planning and policy support. The CABE's primary customer is the U.S. Department of Energy's (DOE's) Office of Environmental Management, however, other organizations also benefit from its expertise. The CABE draws strength from resources at the National Energy Technology Laboratory (NETL), which manages a range of energy and environmental programs for DOE. In fact, NETL's core competencies include program and project management skills, engineering skills, systems analysis capabilities, administrative skills, and innovative contracting expertise.

Capabilities

CABE's trademark is the ability to conduct short-term, quick-response, and highly complex review and assessment projects that require intense customer interaction and responsiveness. These types of projects come from a variety of program areas, including environmental restoration, waste management, and defense programs. They can be either construction or operational projects. CABE offers a highly skilled mix of personnel with specific review and assessment experience to provide quality solutions to business problems in an efficient and timely manner. CABE strives to be a world-class provider of best business practices and has following capabilities:

- **Review and analysis of project baselines, management controls, and project status for critical decisions** - Personnel perform methodologies focused on value engineering, cost engineering, and project controls analysis. The federal staff provides nonproponent reviews or assessments, or assembles external teams comprised of industry experts to conduct the reviews and assessments.
- **Benchmarking project definition, project management, and project progress reporting** - CABE is a clearinghouse of best business practices; developing and providing expertise, and acting as a centralized resource for total cost management, with an emphasis on cost estimating and cost analyses. CABE sponsors review teams comprising project and business management professionals to conduct peer evaluations and independent assessments. In addition, CABE has created a centralized repository of multimedia guidance, manuals, handbooks, tools, models, and other reference materials for business strategies, program and project management, and information management.



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Capabilities (continued)

- **Technical contract management, R&D decisionmaking, cost/benefit analysis, commercialization, regulatory compliance, and stakeholder involvement processes** - Using multi-disciplinary resources, CAGE solves problems related to research & development (R&D) and technology deployment. The CAGE develops and coordinates processes for effective R&D investment decision making, provides integration support to the R&D programs, and creates partnerships to accelerate the commercial availability and market acceptance of innovative technology. The planning and evaluation function involves the design and implementation of processes, methods and tools to assist in formulating science and technology investment strategies and plans, as well as for determining R&D program effectiveness.
- **Technical and programmatic problem resolution** - NETL provides technical services in support of the nation's nuclear, defense, environmental, and energy management programs. The CAGE is helping to resolve challenges facing these programs.
- **Innovative contracting approaches** - NETL's proven ability to work with the private sector, integrate science and engineering skills, and to use innovative contracting approaches to assess the cost, performance, and environmental impact of technologies strengthens CAGE's ability to form partnerships. The CAGE uses its administrative skills, including the legal, environmental, safety, and health capabilities, to support all activities.

Benefits/Accomplishments

CAGE possesses a powerful combination of capabilities that can benefit its customers:

- CAGE is objective and impartial.
- Knowledgeable federal employees provide CAGE's services.
- CAGE uses NETL leadership in innovative private-sector contracting.
- CAGE also uses NETL's long-standing experience with industry and academia.

CAGE will continue to use these capabilities to conduct reviews and analysis. These include External Independent Reviews for the Office of Engineering and Construction Management, Non-Advocate Project Reviews for the Office of Defense Programs, and Internal Project Reviews for the Office of Environmental Management.

Opportunities

CAGE provides government organizations with topnotch business services. The CAGE capitalizes on the synergistic benefits of teamwork, and uses a customer-oriented approach to evaluating program and project status. A staff of experienced federal professionals can supply timely, quality products and services for critical business activities to assist in program and project success.

